

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-11 EUR-25 PM-07 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OMB-01 SCI-06 L-03 DRC-01 /078 W

----- 043272

R 081259Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5026

SECDEF WASHDC

CSAF WASHDC

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

AFSC ANDREWS AFB

AFSC RICHARDS-BEBAUER AFB

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 0190

DEPARTMENT ALSO PASS COMMERCE

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, IR

SUBJECT: EXPANDED PEACE SCEPTER PROGRAM

REF: A. CSAF 041902Z DEC 73

B. CARMISH MAAG 261335Z DEC 73

SUMMARY: WE PROPOSE THAT TEAM OF EXPERTS BE CONSTITUTED TO ASSIST
GOI IN PLANNING FOR CIVILIAN SECTOR OF EXPANDED PEACE SCEPTER
PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

1. AS CSAF REFTTEL VERY COGENTLY SETS FORTH, EXPANSION OF
PEACE SCEPTER AIR FORCE COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT TO INCLUDE
SUBSTANTIAL CIVILIAN COMPONENT WILL INTRODUCE WIDE ARRAY OF
COMPLEX PROBLEMS. AT ISSUE ARE SUCH QUESTIONS AS ASSIGNMENT
OF FACILITIES TO DIVERSE MILITARY AND NON-MILITARY REQUIREMENTS,
PROVISION OF FOLLOW-ON LOGISTICS AND MAINTENANCE SUPPORT,
RELATIONSHIP OF NEW, EXPANDED SYSTEM TO INTEGRATED NATIONAL
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND OVERALL SUPERVISION AND CONTROL
OF NEW SYSTEM BY ONE OR MORE IRANIAN AGENCIES. WE RECOGNIZE
THESE ISSUES COULD POSSIBLY BLOCK OR LIMIT USAF INVOLVEMENT

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IN FULL SCOPE OF PROJECT. IN CONDITIONS OF UNCERTAINTY,

WE ARE CONCERNED THAT SIZEABLE PORTION OF THIS SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLION DOLLAR PROJECT COULD BE LOST BY US FIRMS. WHILE AN AMERICAN COMPANY IS ASSURED THE SATELLITE COMPONENT OF THE PROJECT, GROUND FACILITIES AND OTHER ANCILLARY ELEMENTS COULD, IF WE LOSE DOMINANT POSITION IN PLANNING, GO TO FOREIGN SUPPLIERS.

2. WITH THIS BACKGROUND IN MIND, AMBASSADOR RAISED SUBJECT OF IRANIAN PLANNING FOR PROJECT WITH SHAH ON DECEMBER 20. FROM SHAH'S RESPONSES IT WAS CLEAR GOI HAS MADE NO DETERMINATION AS TO SCOPE OF CIVILIAN MANAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION. SHAH SAID IRAN WOULD WELCOME US ADVICE ON THESE MATTERS. WE HOPE EFFECTIVE USE CAN BE MADE OF THIS OPENING TO ESTABLISH STRONG US INFLUENCE OVER CIVILIAN SECTOR OF PROJECT IN EARLIEST STAGES.

3. SPECIFICALLY, WE RECOMMEND THAT USG CONSTITUTE A TEAM HEADED BY RECOGNIZED EXPERT IN COMMUNICATIONS TO SURVEY IRANIAN CIVILIAN REQUIREMENTS FOR PEACE SCEPTER AND FORMULATE OPTIONS FOR GOI DECISION ON MILITARY/CIVILIAN MANAGEMENT AND SHARING. WE HAVE IN MIND SOMEONE LIKE JOSEPH CHARYK OF COMSAT. TEAM COULD INCLUDE MILITARY EXPERTS OR ESTABLISH WORKING LINKS WITH MILITARY UNITS HERE AND IN US. TEAM MIGHT BE CONSTITUTED UNDER COMSAT AUSPICES WHICH MIGHT LATER WORK IN TAMDEN WITH USAF ON CIVILIAN ELEMENT OF PROJECT. FURTHER DETAILS ON NATURE OF PROBLEMS CAN BE PROVIDED BY OFFICERS WHO DRAFTED CSAF REFTEL.

4. BECAUSE OF HEADY ATMOSPHERE THAT WILL INCREASINGLY SURROUND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AS RESULT OF NEW OIL REVENUES, WE HOPE THIS PROPOSAL CAN BE TREATED WITH SOME URGENCY. WE WOULD LIKE REACTION FROM WASHINGTON WITHIN TWO WEEKS SO THAT TEAM, IF APPROVED, MIGHT VISIT IRAN IN FEBRUARY AND HAVE REPORT READY FOR SHAH UPON HIS RETURN TO TEHRAN LATER THAT MONTH. IN MAKING THIS PROPOSAL WE DO NOT WISH IN ANY WAY TO IMPEDE ON-GOING USAF STUDY.

5. UNLESS WE ACT TO INFLUENCE IRANIAN THINKING ON CIVILIAN SIDE, WE BELIEVE GOI DECISIONS FOR THAT SECTOR WILL BE DELAYED AS IIAF MOVES AHEAD. EVENTUALLY, CIVILIAN AGENCIES MAY BE

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SET IN MOTION WITH PROSPECT THAT THEY WILL MAKE OWN ARRANGEMENTS FOR EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE AND EQUIPMENT. WE HAVE NO BUILT-IN ADVANTAGES IN CIVILIAN SECTOR AS WE DO WITH USAF-IIAF RELATIONSHIP. THEREFORE WE MUST ACT QUICKLY AND DECISIVELY TO ESTABLISH STRONGEST POSSIBLE POSITION OF US EXPERTISE, I.E. THROUGH INVOLVEMENT OF COMSAT OR SIMILAR GROUP. IF ADDRESSEES BELIEVE THESE ARE IDLE CONCERNS, LET THEM REVIEW BACKGROUND OF HOW POLICE COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT WAS LOST TO

BRITISH. THAT WAS ONLY \$30 MILLION. WE CANNOT AFFORD
TO LOSE ANY PART OF THIS UNDERTAKING.
HELMS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TELECOMMUNICATION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, COMMUNICATION SATELLITES, PEACE SCEPTER
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TEHRAN00190
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740155/aaaabzzg.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. CSAF 041902Z DEC 73
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 AUG 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <12 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXPANDED PEACE SCEPTER PROGRAM
TAGS: ETEL, IR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005